

What is claimed is:

1. A method for editing an media file comprising one or more media segments, using software designed for use on a general-purpose computer, the software having a graphical user interface comprising a cursor and an iconographic timeline indicating different locations within the file, the method comprising:
 - receiving from a user interface signals corresponding to positioning the cursor over the timeline in a position corresponding to an endpoint of a media segment;
 - receiving from the user interface signals corresponding to grabbing and moving the endpoint within the timeline; and
 - changing the length of the media segment in response to the movement of the endpoint within the timeline.
2. The method of claim 1 further comprising displaying an iconographic affordance indicating available directions for moving the endpoint.
3. The method of claim 2 wherein the affordance comprises an arrow.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein an iconographic representation of the endpoint changes to indicate whether the segment length may be changed.
5. The method of claim 4 wherein the iconographic representation of the endpoint comprises squared edges to indicate that the segment has been trimmed.

6. The method of claim 4 wherein the iconographic representation of the one or more endpoints comprises rounded edges to indicate that the segment has not been trimmed.
7. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
displaying representative frames corresponding to the audio video segment endpoint.
8. The method of claim 1 wherein the media file is an audio/video file.
9. The method of claim 1 wherein the media file is an audio file.
10. The method of claim 1 wherein the media file is a video file.
11. A computer readable medium, having disposed thereupon program instructions for a general purpose computer, the instructions configured to allow the computer to perform media file editing, the media file editing comprising the steps of:
receiving from a user interface signals corresponding to positioning the cursor over the timeline in a position corresponding to an endpoint of a media segment;
receiving from the user interface signals corresponding to grabbing and moving the endpoint within the timeline; and
changing the length of the media segment in response to the movement of the endpoint within the timeline.

12. The computer readable medium of claim 11 further comprising displaying an iconographic affordance indicating available directions for moving the endpoint.
13. The computer readable medium of claim 11 wherein the affordance comprises an arrow.
14. The computer readable medium of claim 11 wherein an iconographic representation of the endpoints changes to indicate whether the segment length may be changed.
15. The computer readable medium of claim 14 wherein the iconographic representation of the endpoint comprises squared edges to indicate that the segment has been trimmed.
16. The computer readable medium of claim 14 wherein the iconographic representation of the one or more endpoints comprises rounded edges to indicate that the segment has not been trimmed.
17. The computer readable medium of claim 11 further comprising:
displaying representative frames corresponding to the audio video segment endpoint.
18. The computer readable medium of claim 11 wherein the media file is an audio/video file.

19. The computer readable medium of claim 11 wherein the media file is an audio file.
20. The computer readable medium of claim 11 wherein the media file is a video file.
21. A graphical user interface for a media editing program executed by a general purpose computer, the graphical user interface comprising:
 - a cursor;
 - an iconographic timeline, wherein the cursor may be movably positioned along the iconographic timeline; and
 - an iconographic illustration of one or more endpoints of a media segment, the endpoints being located along the timeline, wherein the cursor changes appearance when positioned proximate an endpoint of the media segment to indicate that a length of the media segment may be changed.
22. The graphical user interface of claim 21 wherein the cursor changes appearance to an arrow indicating one or more directions in which the endpoint of the media file may be moved, the movement of the endpoint corresponding to a change in the length of the media segment.
23. The graphical user interface of claim 21 wherein the iconographic representation of the one or more endpoints changes to indicate whether the segment length may be changed.

24. The graphical user interface of claim 3b wherein the iconographic representation of the one or more endpoints includes squared edges to indicate that the segment has been trimmed.
25. The graphical user interface of claim 3b wherein the iconographic representation of the one or more endpoints includes rounded edges to indicate that the segment has not been trimmed.
26. The graphical user interface of claim 21 further comprising:
at least one representation of media corresponding to the endpoint.
27. The graphical user interface of claim 21 wherein the media segment is an audio/video file.
28. The graphical user interface of claim 21 wherein the media segment is an audio file.
29. The graphical user interface of claim 21 wherein the media segment is a video file.